Mt. 21 16 "Have ye never read?"

Text. Question of pharisees & scribes in reply to their question "Hearest thou what these are saying?" a question Jesus often asked of all who reverenced the scriptures as the Word of God.

I. The Bible not read today as it once was.
Cottie's Saturday Night
Whittier's Snowbound

1. The home in a new world.
   a - Other books now claim our attention.
   b - Private libraries
   c - The books on science supplement the Bible.
   Bible tells us nothing of the physical world. Science does. Physiology & hygiene must help us to have healthy & useful lives.
2. Revelation thru art. - Sculpture & painting and architecture & music add much to our knowledge.
3. History as revelation.
4. Vocational books.

One book, then, is not enough to equip us for life.

II. For this very fact there is danger just now that the Bible may be crowded out altogether. Newspaper & fiction are forced upon our attention by all the devices of the trade.

1. Why do boys & girls dislike & refuse to read the Bible? - because so-called Christian mothers & fathers read newspapers & novels so constantly & the Bible so scarcely as to set a wrong example to the children

(2)

2. Excuses offered to explain the sad fact.
a- Some claim that the new-fangled notions of modern scholarship is responsible.
1- The Bible is no longer infallible.
a- Bible doesn't claim to be infallible.
Interpreters cannot be infallible.
b- Men do not read the Bible because refuse to it is not infallible.
2- The Bible not Verbally Inspired.
Do men refuse to read Shakespeare because his writings are not inspired?
Or the newspapers?
If the Bible is equal to Shakespeare, why not read it?

III. But what is the use of quibbling about theories & notions?
Why not take the Bible for what it is? Do not bother about the theories concerning it.
The negro of Richmond Va. who clung to the Tabernacle & shouting after whom everybody else had given it up. The negro, known by placing himself in the sunshine received warmth for his body & light for his eyes. Not his theory about the sun, but his attitude towards it is what helped him. Not your theory about the Bible, but your attitude towards it that will measure its help to you. "How ye never read?"

Parable — Read.

(3) How to Make Bible Reading Interesting and Profitable.

1. Read a book at a time.
2. Make the scenes and incidents real to you and the personalities living presences.
3. Let these scenes & personages play on your feelings as well as your imagination. Sympathy
4. Bring the Bible into vital touch with the life of the present time.

Conclusion - The Bible is the Book of Power to whomsoever will use it.

Two men went into the church, the one

a talkative Bible idolater, the other a Bible reader. The first said aloud, "I believe that the Bible is the Word of God. I accept it from lid to lid. I believe it was dictated by the Holy Ghost. I accept it as the infallible word of the Almighty." And then to himself he said, "But I do not read it; I am too busy. I do not read books which throw light upon it or unfold the meaning of its authors. I am absorbed in other matters." The other man communed with his heart thus: "I hardly know what to think about the Bible. I have not fully made up my mind yet. There are some things in it which I do not understand. There are other things which I am not yet ready to accept. But I read the Book. I read something in it every week. I expect to keep on reading it as long as I live." I tell you, that man goes down to his home justified rather than the other. One of the most dangerous heretics in the modern church is the man who says pious things about the Bible, but does not read it. What we need is not men and women who repeat traditional eulogies on the Bible, but who read it, and keep on reading it, until the substance of it passes into their blood and bones.

comed everywhere. We had expected opposition because of religious prejudice, but found willing hearers instead. "It mak' ma heart beeg to hear God's Word," said a Frenchman, and a native mountaineer ejaculated, "Eh, gad, man, but it's good to see a preacher and know we ain't forgot." The announcement that a missionary would probably be placed in the camps was gladly received and freely discussed, and many asked why something of this nature had not been done before. As we passed the blackened acres of stumps and saw the evidences of former camps we, too, repeated the question of the lumberjacks, and wondered why.

At the opening of each service it was announced that no offering would be asked. This was done to eliminate the idea of personal gain in connection with our visit. We were there to give, not to receive. But in two camps, both of which were French Canadian, the men insisted on helping the mission work by taking a collection. The moral atmosphere of the bunkhouses was different after the meetings. Before the service the discussion was of greed and graft, the isolation, the alluring towns and the day's